

What is Claimed Is:

1. A method in a biometric authorization system, the method comprising:
 - receiving biometric data that is based on biometric information that is taken from a user;
 - locating a user record associated with said user;
 - upgrading biometric data associated with said user record using said received biometric data; and
 - storing the upgraded biometric data in said user record.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said upgrading comprises substituting a previously registered biometric sample with a received biometric sample if said received biometric sample is of a higher quality.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said upgrading comprises generating a new biometric sample based on a combination of a previously registered biometric sample and a received biometric sample.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising prompting said user for one or more additional biometric samples to employ for said upgrading.
5. The method of claim 3, further comprising generating a biometric template from said new biometric sample.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said upgrading comprises replacing a previously registered biometric template with a template generated from a received biometric sample if said received biometric sample is of a higher quality.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said upgrading comprises generating a new biometric template based on a combination of one or more previously registered biometric templates and a template generated from one or more received biometric samples.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein said received biometric samples comprise a plurality of biometric sample types.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a user identification code.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein said upgrading is initiated by a third party system.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein said upgrading occurs at scheduled time periods.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein said storing is determined by the system.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein said storing comprises storing a plurality of biometric data upgrade transactions.
14. The method of claim 1, further comprising comparing, at a local biometric device, said received biometric data or a biometric template based on said received biometric data with said biometric data associated with said user record.
15. The method of claim 1, further comprising comparing, at a central database, said received biometric data or a biometric template based on said received biometric data with said biometric data associated with said user record.
16. A method for upgrading biometric data, the method comprising:
 - authorizing a user at a local biometric device, said authorization being based on a comparison of first biometric data with second biometric data, wherein said first biometric data is based on a biometric sample provided by a user to said local biometric device and said second biometric data is previously registered biometric data that is received by said local biometric device from a database; and
 - sending one of said first biometric data or said biometric sample to said database, one of said first biometric data or said biometric sample being used to upgrade said second biometric data that is stored at said database.
17. The method of claim 16, further comprising sending a user identification code to said database, said user identification code being used to access said second biometric data.
18. The method of claim 16, further comprising determining whether said second biometric data should be upgraded.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein said determining comprises determining whether said first biometric data is of a higher quality than said second biometric data.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the quality of said first biometric data and said second biometric data is determined by one or more characteristics.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein the characteristics are minutia points of the first biometric data and the second biometric data.
22. The method of claim 20, wherein the characteristics are aspects of clarity of the first biometric data and the second biometric data.
23. The method of claim 20, wherein the characteristic is size of the first biometric data and the second biometric data.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the characteristic is liveness of the first biometric data and the second biometric data.
25. The method of claim 20, wherein the characteristic is system attendant biometric sample certification of the first biometric data and the second biometric data.
26. The method of claim 25, wherein said system attendant biometric sample certification comprises a system attendant ranking.
27. The method of claim 20, wherein the characteristic is biometric device data.
28. The method of claim 27, wherein said biometric device data comprises one or more of a terminal identification code, a system attendant code, a system operator identification code, and transmission capabilities information.
29. The method of claim 16, further comprising receiving a request at said local biometric device that new biometric data should be forwarded to said database to upgrade previously registered biometric data.
30. The method of claim 29, wherein said request is received from said database.
31. A method in a biometric authorization system, the method comprising:
 - receiving, at a database, biometric data that is based on biometric information taken from a user at a local biometric device;
 - locating, at said database, a user record associated with said user;
 - authorizing said user at said database, said authorization being based on a comparison using said received biometric data and second biometric data that is associated with said located user record;
 - determining whether said received biometric data is useful to upgrade said second biometric data;
 - upgrading said second biometric data associated with said user record using said received biometric data, if it is determined that said received biometric data is useful to upgrade said second biometric data; and
 - storing the upgraded biometric data in association with said user record.
32. The method of claim 31, wherein said locating is based on a receipt of a user identification code.
33. The method of claim 31, wherein said determining is based on a quality of said local biometric device.

34. The method of claim 31, wherein said determining comprises determining whether said received biometric data can augment previously registered biometric data.
35. The method of claim 31, wherein said determination is based on an age of previously registered biometric data.
36. A method for upgrading biometric data, the method comprising:
- receiving biometric data that is based on biometric information that is taken from a user and biometric device data;
 - locating a user record associated with said user;
 - comparing registered biometric device data to said received biometric device data;
 - and
 - if said received biometric device data is determined superior to said registered biometric device data, substituting said received biometric data or biometric data derived from said received biometric data for previously registered biometric data in said user record.
37. The method of claim 36, further comprising receiving a user identification code.
38. The method of claim 36, wherein said biometric device data comprises one or more of a terminal identification code, a system attendant code, a system operator identification code, and transmission capabilities information.
39. The method of claim 36, wherein previously registered biometric device data and the previously registered biometric data are discarded.
40. The method of claim 36, wherein the previously registered biometric data are marked as inactive.
41. A method for upgrading biometric data, the method comprising:
- receiving user biometric data;
 - locating a user record associated with the user biometric data;
 - comparing the quality of the received biometric data to the quality of the registered biometric data; and
 - if the quality of the received biometric data is determined superior to the quality of the registered biometric data, substituting the registered biometric data with the received biometric data.
42. The method of claim 41, further comprising receiving a user identification code.

43. The method of claim 41, wherein the quality of said received biometric data and said registered biometric data is determined by one or more characteristics.
44. The method of claim 43, wherein the characteristics are minutia points of the received biometric data and the registered biometric data.
45. The method of claim 43, wherein the characteristics are aspects of clarity of the received biometric data and the registered biometric data.
46. The method of claim 43, wherein the characteristic is size of the received biometric data and the registered biometric data.
47. The method of claim 43, wherein the characteristic is liveness of the received biometric data and the registered biometric data.
48. The method of claim 43, wherein the characteristic is system attendant biometric sample certification of the received biometric data and the registered biometric data.
49. The method of claim 48, wherein said system attendant biometric sample certification comprises a system attendant ranking.
50. The method of claim 43, wherein the characteristic is biometric device data.
51. The method of claim 50, wherein said biometric device data comprises one or more of a terminal identification code, a system attendant code, a system operator identification code, and transmission capabilities information.
52. A method in a biometric authorization system, the method comprising:
 - receiving transaction biometric data that is based on biometric information that is taken from a user;
 - determining whether said received transaction biometric data is useful to upgrade previously registered biometric data; and
 - if said received transaction biometric data is useful to upgrade previously registered biometric data, then storing upgrade biometric data in a user record, said upgrade biometric data representing a combination of said transaction biometric data and said previously registered biometric data.
53. The method of claim 52, wherein said previously registered biometric data is obtained during an enrollment transaction, and said transaction biometric data is obtained during a purchase transaction.

54. The method of claim 52, wherein said enrollment transaction and said purchase transaction occur on different days.